

November 1, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

**Detroit Legal News: Court Performance Innovation grant recipients named**

"Combating human trafficking. Peacemaking court. Smart phone apps that let users check in for court hearings. These are just some of the projects that Michigan courts will be pursuing, thanks to grants from the Court Performance Innovation Fund."

[Full story](#)

**Note:** The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

**Also see:**

**Associated Press: State grants pay for human trafficking, 'peacemaking' courts in Ann Arbor area**

[Full story](#)

**Note:** This Associated Press article also ran in WILX-TV(10)/Lansing, WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit and other media outlets.

**Grand Rapids Press: Going to court? There's an app for that - coming soon**

[Full story](#)

**Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan Supreme Court funds two new courts**

[Full story](#)

**Court Performance Innovation grant recipients named; projects include human trafficking court, peacemaking court, smart phone apps, social media**

[Press release](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Brian Dickerson: Michigan State Senate makes mockery of judicial independence**

"In Michigan (and most other constitutional democracies), the only thing that stands between the people and the excesses of whichever political party controls the executive or legislative branches is an independent, nonpartisan judiciary. But state Sen. Rick Jones has had about enough of that."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Associated Press: Mich. Senate votes to change venue for state suits**

[Full story](#)

**Note:** This Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit Legal News, the Oakland County Legal News, the Republic/Columbus, IN, WWMT-TV(3)/Kalamazoo and other media outlets.

**Crain's Detroit Business Blog: Criticism, questions after Senate GOP shifts lawsuits against state to Court of Appeals**

[Full story](#)

**Democracy Tree Blog: GOP Scheme to Rearrange Michigan Courts is Unconstitutional**

[Full story](#)

**WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Senate Votes to Move Court Cases Out of Ingham County**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Michigan Senate OKs curbs on elected county officials suing each other**

"Countywide elected officials will have a harder time suing each other under a bill passed Thursday by the state Senate. The bill, passed on a 29-8 vote, would require that any future lawsuits be handled by the state Court of Appeals and make the appeals panel consider the county's ability to pay when coming to a judgment."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Obituary: STANCZYK, HONORABLE BENJAMIN C.**

"The Honorable Benjamin C. Stanczyk passed away on Monday, October 28, 2013.... He became a Detroit Common Pleas Court Judge in 1957, and after retiring from the bench in 1975 worked as a visiting judge and arbitrator in Southeastern Michigan until 1999."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Obituary: STANCZYK, HONORABLE BENJAMIN C.**

[Full story](#)

### **Associated Press: Metro Detroit man who claimed excessive police force wins ruling**

"A man who was badly injured in a confrontation with a suburban Detroit police officer has settled a lawsuit for about \$700,000 and received vindication of sorts from the Michigan Supreme Court. Jeff Kodlowski says he was beaten in the head by Westland Officer Kyle Dawley in 2009. The officer was responding to a call about a minor incident involving Kodlowski, his wife and a phone."

[Full story](#)

**Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit Free Press and other media outlets.**

### **Bay City Times: Trial for Bay City man accused of sexually assaulting teen girl adjourned, attorney fined \$1,000**

"A Bay City man accused by prosecutors of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl has to wait a while longer before his trial, but his attorney has been fined \$1,000.... [Defense attorney Paul] Beggs said he needed more time to review materials. [Bay County Circuit Judge Harry P.] Gill fined Beggs \$1,000 for the delay, to be paid within 30 days, and rescheduled the trial for Nov. 19."

[Full story](#)

### **C & G News/Warren: Clinton Township settles lawsuit, shows support against MDEQ**

"Clinton Township has settled one lawsuit while joining other communities in an ongoing battle against state provisions.... According to Township Attorney Jack Dolan, the case went before the Michigan Court of Appeals and then to trial court. Dolan added that it's unusual for cases like this to take this long."

[Full story](#)

### **The Daily Telegram/Adrian: No appeal in sex case**

"The Michigan Court of Appeals decided not to review the 38-month to 10-year prison term given last year to an Adrian man convicted of sexually abusing an 11-year-old girl, said Lenawee County Prosecutor Burke Castleberry."

[Full story](#)

### **The Macomb Daily: Court upholds \$1 million award for paralyzed Sterling Heights woman**

"Most of a \$1-million judgment for a Sterling Heights woman paralyzed in a 2007 up-north off-road-vehicle crash was upheld this week by the state Court of Appeals. The 15-page opinion released Tuesday maintains about 90 percent of the \$1.06 million judgment for Beverly Duffy that was granted in 2011 by a Macomb County jury against Grange Insurance Co."

[Full story](#)

### **Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon judge jails woman for alleged perjury; felony charge follows**

"In a rare instance of a criminal case initiated by a judge, a Fruitport Township woman has been charged with perjury at a court proceeding – a potential 15-year felony – after she took the witness stand this week and allegedly contradicted her earlier statements to police. Maria Rose Kiehnau, 30, was arraigned Wednesday, Oct. 30, on the perjury charge, punishable by up to 15 years in prison, and an alternate count of false report of a felony, a four-year felony."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Archer addresses students on transition to real world**

"The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law's Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and the State Bar of Michigan's Student Section presented 'Dennis Archer: From Law School to the Real World' on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at UDM Law in Detroit.... Archer is the former: chairman of Dickinson Wright; president of the State Bar of Michigan; president of the American Bar Association; mayor of the City of Detroit; and justice of the Michigan Supreme Court"

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Appeals court won't intervene in mine dispute**

"A hunting club that claims a new Upper Peninsula mine will spoil the environment has failed to persuade a federal appeals court to intervene. The court affirmed a 2012 decision by a federal judge, who declined to issue an injunction against the Eagle Mine, near Marquette."

[Full story](#)

### **Saginaw News: First-degree murder convictions upheld for Saginaw men serving life for 2002 Kevin Amos Jr. murder**

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld the convictions of two former Saginaw men serving life in prison for the 2002 murder of Kevin Amos Jr. With the September appellate court ruling, Patrick A. Martin and Terrance L. Shepard will continue serving their sentences for the murder of Amos, who was found on the banks of the Cass River three months after his death."

[Full story](#)

### **WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Event to honor Detroit icon Damon J. Keith**

"Mitch Albom will return to Detroit's Fox Theatre on Monday, November 11, 2013 at 7:30 p.m., in conversation with Detroit icon and champion of the U.S. Civil Rights movement, the Hon. Judge Damon J. Keith. Funds raised at the Detroit Legacies - In Black and White event will benefit S.A.Y. Detroit Charities and The Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights."

[Full story](#)